

Message Text

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ACTION NEA-10

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FM AMEMBASSY DAMASCUS
TO SECSTATE WASHDC NIACT IMMEDIATE 1874

C O N F I D E N T I A L DAMASCUS 1203

FOR COLLUMNS/GRIFFIN FROM ABINGTON

NEA ONLY

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: OGEN
SUBJECT: THINGS TO DO

1. VISIT HAS RESULTED IN EVEN MORE WORK FOR THE OVERWORKED
NEA STAFF AIDES. KNOWING YOU HAVE NOTHING TO DO EXCEPT
PREPARE FOR VARIOUS VISITORS, FOLLOWING SHOULD GIVE YOU
SOMETHING TO DO TO WHILE AWAY YOUR FREE TIME.

2. MEMCOMS: DRAFT MEMCOMS HAVE BEEN PREPARED FOR ALL
MEETINGS AS OF COB FEBRUARY 20 EXCEPT GULF COM AND MEETING
SCHEDULED FOR FEBRUARY 21 WHICH WILL BE REPORTED TELEGRAPHICALLY.
ROY WILL ATTEMPT TO REVIEW MEMCOMS ON TRIP HOME BUT WILL
NOT BE ABLE TO FINISH JOB. SUGGEST YOU FARM OUT TO DESKS
THOSE MEMCOMS HE HAS CLEARED FOR FINAL TYPING. HAVE
PLACED DUPLICATE SET OF MEMCOMS IN BAG 5.

3. THANK-YOU NOTES: DRAFT NOTES PREPARED FOR ALL STOPS.
WITH EXCEPTION OF THOSE FOR CAIRO, ALL WILL PROBABLY
NEED SOME REWRITING IN TERMS OF ADDING WARMTH AND THE
PERSONAL TOUCH. AGAIN, SUGGEST DESKS TAKE THIS ON.
LEO WILL BE IN TOUCH ON THIS.

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4. NORTH AFRICAN CHIEFS OF MISSION: MEMCOM NOTES
SEVERAL ACTIONS REQUIRED. IN BRIEF, THE ARE: (A)
HASSAN VISIT -- ANDERSON TO SEND CABLE SETTING FORTH TIMING
CONSIDERATIONS FOR SECRETARY'S REVIEW. MEMO SUBMITTED
ON THIS SUBJECT NOW OBE. (B) LYNE PUSHED HARD FOR
DECISION ON LONG -PENDING ALGERIAN REQUEST TO FEDERAL
POWER COMMISSION RE EXPORT OF LNG. TARNOFF WAS REQUESTED

TO LOOK INTO MATTER. JAMESON SHOULD START PREPARING MEMO GIVING STATUS, OPTIONS, ETC. (C) LYNE ALSO MENTIONED HOW USEFUL ROBINSON'S VISITS TO ALGERIA HAD BEEN AND SUGGESTED COOPER CARRY ON WITH THIS PRACTICE. TARNOFF CHARGED WITH LOOKING INTO POSSIBILITY OF COOPER TRIP. SUGGEST JAMESON ALSO BE GEARED UP FOR THIS. (D) IN BAG 1, YOU WILL FIND LETTER FROM FONMIN CHATTI TO SECRETARY. ACKNOWLEDGMENT SHOULD BE PREPARED AS SOON AS POSSIBLE. (E) AMB. ANDERSON BUTTONHOLED ME IN AMMAN RE HIS RETURN FOR CONSULTATIONS IN MID MARCH FOR ABOUT TWO WEEKS. HE HAS ASKED FOR TRAVEL ORDERS WHICH WOULD INCLUDE STOPOVER IN LONDON ON RETURN FROM WASHINGTON IN ORDER TO CONSULT WITH ADMIRAL BAGLEY (CINCNAVEUR). ANDERSON PLANS TO COVER WHOLE GAMET OF RELATIONS INCLUDING KUNEITRA, GEODSS, ETC. SAID ROY APPROVED, BUT YOU MIGHT CHECK ON LENGTH (2 VERSUS 1 WEEK).

5. GULF/PENINSULA MEETING. (A) MIDEAST FOR -- WAS UNDER IMPRESSION TWINAM HAD PREPARED TALKING POINTS FOR WAT TO USE ON RETURN WITH FONMIN BUT WERE UNABLE TO FIND. WAT FELT HE RECEIVED ENOUGH GUIDANCE AT COM MEETING SO AS NOT TO REQUIRE ANY ADDITIONAL INSTRUCTIONS. HE WILL BE REPORTING ON HIS CONVERSATION SOON. (B) MASIRAH - YOU HAVE RECEIVED ROY'S MESSAGE ON THIS SUBJECT. WOLLE'S MESSAGE REPORTING HIS CONVERSATION WITH ZAWAWI AND SID'S COMMENTS SHOULD BE FOLDED INTO ACTION MEMO ROY REQUESTED. HABIB PROMISED ANSWER FOR WOLLE WITHIN ONE WEEK. (C) TOM SCOTES ASKED ROY TO LOOK INTO HIS ASSIGNMENT TO SENIOR SEMINAR. PLEASE REMIND ROY TO DO THIS AS SOON
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AS HE RETURNS. (D) FRAN DICKMAN RAISED AT COM MEETING HIS PENDING REQUEST FOR MEETINGS BETWEEN UAE OIL MINISTER AND VANCE, BLUMENTHAL AND SCHLESINGER. SEC AGREEABLE IN PRINCIPLE AND ACTION MEMO FOR APPOINTMENT SHOULD BE PREPARED FOR VANCE, AND ARP SHOULD MOVE AHEAD ON SETTING UP OTHER TWO APPOINTMENTS, IF IT HAS NOT ALREADY DONE SO. DICKMAN ALSO RAISED NEED FOR MORE PERSONALIZED HIGH-LEVEL ATTENTION FOR UAE SHAIKH ZAYID IN LIGHT OF UAE'S MODERATE POSITION AT LAST OPEC MEETING. FRAN SUGGESTED LETTER FROM PRESIDENT TO ZAYID COMMENTING ON OUR MIDDLE EAST POLICY. SECRETARY AGREED THIS WAS APPROPRIATE SO ARP SHOULD START PREPARING MESSAGE. (E) TOM SCOTES RESURRECTED RE-ESTABLISHING RELATIONS WITH PDRY, USING AS TAKE-OFF POINT HIS 25 PARAGRAPH CABLE ON THIS SUBJECT. SUGGEST YOU TELL GERLACH HE CAN DUST OFF HIS PAPER OF SEVERAL MONTHS AGO TO ROY AND RECAST IT AS AN OPTIONS MEMO, INCORPORATING AS NECESSARY TOM'S CABLE. (F) PAGANELLI MENTIONED QATAR'S FEELING OF BENIGN NEGLECT AND EXPRESSED HOPE

THAT HABIB AND/OR ATHERTON COULD MAKE SWING THROUGH GULF IN NEAR FUTURE. SECRETARY ASKED ROY TO CONSIDER WHAT NEA COULD DO VIS-A-VIS GULF STATES REGARDING MORE HIGH-LEVEL ATTENTION AS WELL AS VISITS BY SENIOR OFFICIALS TO AREA. YOU MIGHT GET ARP TO START THINKING ABOUT THIS.

6. TO RECONFIRM MY TALK WITH HAL: (A) SLIGHT CHANGE IN SIGNALS RE URQAHART. PLEASE INFORM HIM THAT ROY AND PETE COULD GO UP TO NEW YORK TO BRIEF HIM AFTERNOON OF FEBRUARY 23. IT APPEARS THAT FEBRUARY 23 IS ONLY TIME THIS WEEK THAT ROY COULD GO TO NEW YORK, GIVEN HIS SCHEDULE. YOU SHOULD ALSO OFFER ALTERNATIVE OF URQAHART COMING DOWN TO WASHINGTON IF THAT IS MORE CONVENIENT. (B) ROY WILL DECIDE AFTER HIS RETURN RE MEETING WITH LEE HAMILTON. (C) BRYEN REPORT IS NOT TO BE DISTRIBUTED SINCE IT WAS PROVIDED TO ROY ON A PERSONAL BASIS. (D) UNABLE TO CONFIRM CONFIDENTIAL

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DATES OF RABIN VISIT. IF ROY DOES NOT HAVE FIRM DATES BY TIME HE RETURNS, ASK HIM TO RAISE WITH SECRETARY.

7. EMBASSY BEIRUT HAS ASKED FOR A COPY OF THE LETTER FROM PRESIDENT FORD TO PRESIDENT SARKIS. CHECK WITH NSC AND SEE IF THEY WILL RELEASE IT TO YOU. LETTER WAS GIVEN SARKIS BY SECRETARY.

8. COM'S MADE PITCH TO ROY AND HAL FOR MORE ADVANCE NOTICE ON IMPORTANT STATEMENTS BY DEPARTMENT OFFICIALS. CASE IN POINT IS SECRETARY'S TESTIMONY ON BOYCOTT LEGISLATION. HAVE ACTION OFFICE PUT STATEMENT ON CABLE FORM ALONG FOR TALKING POINTS FOR COM'S TO USE WITH HOST GOVERNMENT OFFICIALS. STATEMENT MUST BE SENT TWO DAYS BEFORE SECRETARY TESTIFIES IN ORDER THAT IT REACH POSTS IN TIME.

9. HAVE STORED MY WORKING FILES AMONG BAGS. YOU CAN STORE THEM AWAY UNTIL MY RETURN.

10. CHEERS AND SEE YOU SOON.
MURPHY

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